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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/727,573	12/05/2003	Teiji Yamamoto	KOM-159/INO	7354
23353	7590	08/14/2006	EXAMINER	
RADER FISHMAN & GRAUER PLLC LION BUILDING 1233 20TH STREET N.W., SUITE 501 WASHINGTON, DC 20036			STORMER, RUSSELL D	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3617	

DATE MAILED: 08/14/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on May 24, 2006 has been entered.

Drawings

2. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the pair of concavities formed into the side surface of the link as set forth in claim 9 must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s).

No new matter should be entered.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for

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consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

3. The specification is objected to as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter.

There is no description of the boss portions "projecting laterally away" from the first side surface as set forth in claim 8.

There is no description of the link having a "pair of concavities formed in the second side surface" of the main body part of the link as set forth in claim 9.

See 37 CFR 1.75(d)(1) and MPEP § 608.01(o).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

5. Claims 1, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Maguire et al (U.S. Patent 6322173) in view of Maguire et al (U.S. Patent 6783196) and Bottom et al.

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Maguire et al '173 discloses a track link assembly comprising internal and external links having a having a coupler pin, a fixed bushing, and a sealing ring. As shown in figure 11, the insert or fixed bushing 36 extends from the bushing hole in the internal link, the bushing hole in the internal link appears to have the same dimension as the hole in the external link, and the hole in the external link is not a coupler pin hole inasmuch as a collar 40 is fitted therein.

Maguire et al '196 (newly cited) teaches a track assembly in which the fixed bushing 34 may extend beyond the bushing hole in the internal portion of the link (figure 1) or the fixed bushing 34' may be modified to fit within the bushing hole as shown in figure 4 and described lines 57-66 of column 5.

Bottom et al (newly cited) teaches a track link assembly in which thickness of the inner and outer links 12, 14, respectively, may be varied as shown in figures 1-6 and 11. As shown in figure 4, the inner link 12 is thicker than the outer link 14 such that the bushing hole 94 has a greater thickness than the coupling pin hole in the outer link, and in this embodiment the outer link has a hole for the coupling pin instead of a hole which receives a collar or bushing.

From the teachings of Maguire et al '196 and Bottom et al it would have been obvious for the fixed bushing 36 of Maguire et al '173 to fit entirely within the bushing hole of the internal link, and for the external link to have a coupling pin hole which is smaller in thickness than the bushing hole as these have been shown to be obvious and equivalent mechanical expedients and variations.

With respect to claim 8, note the bosses 302 of Maguire et al '173.

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With respect to claim 9 note the concavities formed where the extension members 106, 108 meet the main body of the link as shown in figures 5 and 8.

6. Claims 2-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Maguire et al '173 as modified by Maguire et al '196 and Bottom et al as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Lawson.

For the outer surface of the internal link of Maguire et al to be provided with a raised portion around the bushing hole would have been obvious as taught by Lawson as shown in figure 2 as this would provide a better interfitting of the inner and outer links.

Response to Arguments

7. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-8 have been considered but are moot in view of the new grounds of rejection.


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Russell D. Stormer whose telephone number is (571) 272-6687. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, 9 AM to 4 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joe Morano can be reached on (571) 272-6684. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

8/6/06


RUSSELL D. STORMER
PRIMARY EXAMINER 8/6/06